

DIRECT TAXES VS. TARIFF.

Figures Which Are Worth Considering.
John Sherman in the Long Ago.

I have said in a former article "that estimating the population of the United States at 60,000,000 and the wealth of the nation at \$44,000,000,000, divided equally among all the people, it would give each \$733.33. I have also said that the expenses of the national government have averaged \$640,000,000 for the last twenty-eight years, and that 1 1/2 per cent. on \$44,000,000,000 would be required to raise \$640,000,000. Then if each paid taxes in the proportion of their wealth, each having \$733.33, each would have \$10.13 tax to pay. Now, what I want to show is this: That if each possessed equal wealth our present revenue system would not be materially unequal or unjust, and could be paid on consumption as easily as direct tax, only more expensive in collecting.

But when you change the condition of the people so that 1,000,000 own and control \$36,000,000,000 of our national wealth, leaving the other 59,000,000 with only \$3,000,000,000—only a fraction over \$135 to each of the poor—while each of the rich have \$36,000, and if they were required to pay equal taxes (which I hold they should be) theirs would each amount to \$540, while each of the poor, at the same rate, would only be \$2.82 1/2. It is these facts and figures, Mr. Editor, that I want to impress upon the attention of your readers, to show the injustice of our revenue system and the absolute necessity of its repeal.

The Hon. John Sherman a great many years ago, when he was a poor man, and advocating the cause of the poor man on the floor of congress, said: "A few years of further experience will convince the whole body of our people that a system of national revenue that rests the whole burden of taxation on consumption, and not one cent on property or income is intrinsically unjust, for while the expenses of government are largely caused by the protection of property, it is but just that property should contribute to their payment. It will not do to say that each consumes in proportion to his means, for this is not true. Every one must see that the consumption of the rich does not bear the same relation to the consumption of the poor, as the income of the one does to the wages of the other, and as wealth accumulates this injustice in the fundamental basis of our system will be felt and forced upon the attention of congress."

And, Mr. Editor, has not the experience of the last twenty-five years demonstrated the truth of that prophecy: "That a few years of further experience would convince the whole body of our people that a system of national revenues that rests the whole burden of taxation on consumption and not one cent on property or income is intrinsically unjust?" And having that sad experience, will we continue that intrinsically unjust revenue system?

That is the question, and the question I want to force upon the attention of every reader of The Journal and every union in America, and through them upon the attention of congress. This collecting and expending taxes has no just relation whatever to any American private enterprise or business. And this protection scheme put upon taxation as a rider has done mischief enough already to damn it, and damn institutions that permit it to ride national taxation, and through it ride the farmers and laborers of America to death, which if not already done, it will soon do, as the facts and figures I have already shown clearly prove. —W. B. Garoutte in The Journal of Agriculture.

It seems that the Irish Americans have "gone back on" Parnell, and will stand by Gladstone.

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An Engineer's Say.

At the recent meeting of the Locomotive Firemen's brotherhood, in San Francisco, D. J. Brown, a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers for years, made an address in which he expressed opinions that are held by many members of Mr. Arthur's organization. Said Mr. Brown:

"It is a good thing to have power, and then it is a wise thing to know how to use that power with moderation and discretion. I know there is some opposition to federation in our brotherhood, principally, I think, in our grand office, and among those who do not reason for themselves, but who think as our grand chief engineer wishes them to.

"Our order is, and has been for years, dominated by one man. He is an autocrat in the organization over which he presides. A large portion of our membership blindly follow him, believing that his wisdom is supernatural. So far his influence has prevailed in shaping all important legislation, but federation, I believe, is a tidal wave whose flow he cannot check, even with the assistance of Mr. Chauncey M. Depew. I do not mean to speak unkindly of our grand chief. He did well enough in the infancy of the organization, but he belongs to the past. The organization has outgrown him. He is behind the spirit of the times.

"A mariner on the deck of his vessel safely riding the storm, and turning a deaf ear to the appeals of his fellowmen who are on a less secure craft, or are struggling in the water, is not a pleasant figure to contemplate. But, my friends, I say it with regret, that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has occupied some such an unenviable position among the organizations of workmen, and I charge that it is more the fault of the captain than of the crew. We want a leader whose charity goes a little farther than his own threshold; one who has the disposition to aid others besides those who pay him his yearly salary. The tendency of the times is toward federation, co-operation. The rich combine and wield immense power. We must meet combination by combination, or be crushed in detail like scattered battalions on the field of battle.

Corporations and Franchises.

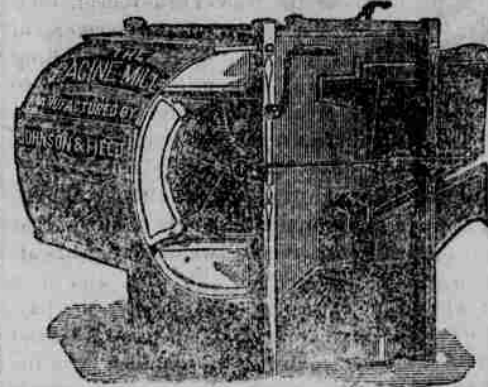
We have given the New York Central its franchises for nothing; but on that very ground we hold it to an exceptionally exact and faithful discharge of public services, failing which the vast gifts granted may be at once resumed. That which the people in their majesty have given they may also take away. Touching this indefeasible right of resumption it would be well for railway officials to ponder a recent decision of the United States supreme court. That tribunal has proclaimed the principle, which, indeed, was incontestable, that in every concession of franchises to railway companies the state reserves the right to reclaim them whenever they are perverted from their objects or abused to the public injury.

We believe that good lawyers and clear thinking men of all professions will concur with Mr. Pryor in holding that by discharging employees for membership in the Knights of Labor the New York Central railway has abused its franchises. It has abused them because by its act it violates the legal rights of others, and has at the same time exposed the community to the danger of portentous and far reaching public evil. The strike of the Knights of Labor and the resultant paralysis of the Central railway system were the inevitable outcome of a wrongful and illegal act on the part of Vice President Webb, and the responsibility for the resultant public loss and inconvenience should be put where it belongs, to wit, on the shoulders of the company, which compelled the strike by an invasion of the lawful rights of labor. —Once a Week.

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That Wall Street Panic.

The panicky condition of Wall street has not had any decided deleterious effect upon legitimate business. So say the dailies. It appears to have been, according to current version, a rich man's affair, resulting from a combination of causes. But in the end the poor man will pay the bills. A leading cause was, no doubt, an overdoing of the bear movement upon cotton by the international money combination, the purpose of which was to scare cotton out of the farmers' hands, with especial reference to discouragement of negotiations by the Alliance for cheap interest advances on cotton held for higher prices. Another prime cause, however, was the desire for a change in certain railroad managements, to accomplish which the purchase of large blocks of stock was necessary. A war was organized on these stocks until they reached a point at which the manipulators wanted them. This depression was communicated by sympathy to almost all other stocks.

Could a better illustration be given of the instability of our commercial institutions and the laws governing them? Here millions of the fictitious wealth of the land are increased or decreased in value at the will of a few leading manipulators, resulting in good in no sense, but in harm in many senses. It illustrates how completely this people are subject to the money power. The robberies by this power are accomplished just as a smart gambler would turn a card from the bottom of a deck, and yet it is called business, and so called by law. It is simply the lowest form of robbery, and the most dangerous—for Wall street rules the commerce of the United States and greatly affects that of all the world. It is one of the institutions that must be reformed before we can hope for any real stability in our commerce or government. —Texas Farmer.

The Contest in Nebraska.

The Farmers' Alliance of Nebraska, in contesting the election of Boyd, Democratic candidate for governor, and the Republicans claimed to be elected to other offices, charged that business men in Omaha and elsewhere formed a conspiracy to defeat the will of the people, and brought in vast sums of money for that purpose; that nearly 3,000 foreigners were naturalized and their fees paid by outside parties just prior to the election, and that in over thirty polling places tickets bearing the names of Alliance candidates were taken from those having them, and such persons were compelled to leave the polling places.

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"Hello! Tom. Glad to see you, old fellow! It's almost ten years since we were married. Sit down; let's have an experience meeting. How's the wife?"

"Oh! she's so-so, same as usual,—always wanting something I can't afford."

"Well, we all want something more than we've got. Don't you?"

"Yes; but I guess 'want will be my master.' I started to keep down expenses; and now I'll say I'm 'mean,' and she's tired of saving and never having anything to show for it. I saw your wife down street, and she looked as happy as a queen!"

"I think she is; and we are economical, too,—have to be. My wife can make a little go further than anyone I ever knew, yet she's always surprising me with some dainty contrivance that adds to the comfort and beauty of our little home, and she's always 'merry as a lark.' When I ask now she manages it, she always laughs and says: 'Oh! that's my secret!' But I think I've discovered her 'secret.' When we married, we both knew we should have to be very careful, but she made one condition: she would have her Magazine. And she was right! I wouldn't do without it myself for double the subscription price. We read it together, from the title-page to the last word; the stories keep our hearts young; the synopsis of important events and scientific matters keeps me posted so that I can talk understandingly of what is going on; my wife is always trying some new idea from the household department; she makes all her dresses and those for the children, and she gets all her patterns for nothing, with the Magazine; and we saved Joe when he was so sick with the croup, by doing just as directed in the Sanitarian Department. But I can't tell you half!"

"What wonderful Magazine is it?"

"Demorest's Family Magazine, and—"

"What! Why that's what I wanted so bad, and I told her it was an extravagance."

"Well, my friend, that's where you made a grand mistake, and one you'd better rectify as soon as you can. I'll take your 'sub.' right here, on my wife's account; she's bound to have a china tea-set in time for our tin wedding next month. My gold watch was the premium I got for getting up a club. Here's a copy, with the new Premium List for clubs,—the biggest thing out! If you don't see in it what you want, you've only to write to the publisher and tell him what you want, whether it is a tack hammer or a new carriage, and he will make special terms for you, either for a club, or for part cash. Better subscribe right off and surprise Mrs. Tom. Only \$2.00 a year,—will save fifty times that in six months. Or send 10 cents direct to the publisher, W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th Street, New York, for a specimen copy containing the Premium List."

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